and family welfare etc. The expenditure incurred for these purposes was much higher than the receipts from disinvestment. It is not possible to indicate how much of such expenditure is met "out of the receipts" from disinvestment in a year.

(c) Decision to disinvest is based on considerations like classification of industry as strategic or non-strategic and not on considerations like profitability. Disinvestment in profitable or non-profitable public enterprise is aimed at optimal utilisation of capital, better corporate governance, reduction in commercial risk of tax-payers' money, release of scarce resources for deployment in social sectors like family welfare, health, education and other sectors of greater public interest. Disinvestment of the Government stake in PSUs is carried out in accordance with the declared policy of the Government to bring down Government equity in all non-strategic PSUs to 26%, or lower, in the generality of cases.

Bids for sale of ITDC hotels

3482. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invited bids for sale of ITDC hotels;

(b) if so, the details of these hotels;

(c) the minimum net worth criteria for bidders of the two Delhi hotels and others;

(d) the profit / loss incurred by these hotels per annum during the last five years; and

(e) the guidelines laid down for sale of profit earning units?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The details of the hotels of India Tourism Development Corporation Limited (ITDC), for which bids were invited in the 1st and 2nd tranche and the details of the 14 hotels recently advertised for disinvestment, the minimum net worth criteria for the bidders and the profit / loss incurred by these hotels are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 195, Annexure No. 33]

(e) The process of disinvestment in ITDC or for any other PSU is carried out in a completely transparent manner in accordance with the prescribed guidelines involving competitive bidding, which ensures that the best price

determined by the market forces is obtained for the stake being disinvested. There is no separate guideline for disinvestment in profit earning Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). The decision to disinvestment in any PUS is taken in terms of the declared disinvestment policy of the Government. According to the policy, in generality of cases, Government will bring down its equity to 26% or below in all non-strategic Central PSUs. The strategic PSUs are those in the areas of arms and ammunitions, allied items of defence equipments, defence aircrafts and warships, atomic energy (except in the areas related to the generation of nuclear power and applications of radiation and radio isotopes to agriculture, medicine and non-strategic industries) and railway transport. This policy covers all Central PSUs including ITDC. Thus, the decision to disinvest is based on the classification of the industry as strategic or non-strategic and not on the criterion of profitability. Disinvestment in profitable or non-profitable PSUs is aimed at optimal utilisation of capital, greater corporate governance, reduction in commercial risk of tax-payers money, release of scarce resources for deployment in social sectors like family welfare, health, education and other sectors of greater public interest.

Dropping of Hotel Ashok and Janpath from the list of disinvestment

3483. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to drop Hotel Ashok and Hotel Janpath from the list of India Tourism Development Corporation Limited (ITDC) hotels that would be divested in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government would float tenders for other Delhi-based hotels of ITDC shortly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Hotel Ashok and Hotel Janpath, New Delhi have been excluded from the disinvestment process pending formulation of fresh proposals by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. As regards Hotel Janpath, the Ministry of Tourism and Culture proposes to utilise the hotel to establish Bharat Paryatan Bhavan, which will also house the offices of that Ministry.